MARVEL
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LGY#212
BLACK
PANTHER
RIDLEY
PERALTA

BLACK PANTHER

"ALL THIS AND THE WORLD, TOO"

FINALE

When the murder of T'Challa's childhood best friend, Jhai, forced him to reveal that Jhai had been part of a network of sleeper agents that T'Challa had embedded all across the globe, the resulting doubt and distrust brought Wakanda to the brink of civil war. In order to preserve the nation's nascent parliamentary democracy, King T'Challa was sent into exile. Black Panther returned to his role as chairperson of the Avengers when a terrorist organization seized control of global communications.

And the terrorists' leader? Jhai himself, who faked his own death to set in motion a plan to elevate Wakandan ideals to the global stage with T'Challa overseeing the entire world. When the Avengers learned that T'Challa's own surveillance had empowered the terrorists, the team's trust was shattered. As tension between the Black Panther and Captain America finally came to a head, they were interrupted by none other than Namor...announcing he was there to offer his aid!

But Namor's alliance with Wakanda came with a price: T'Challa's exile. Now with nothing left to lose, T'Challa charges forward into Jhai's stronghold...

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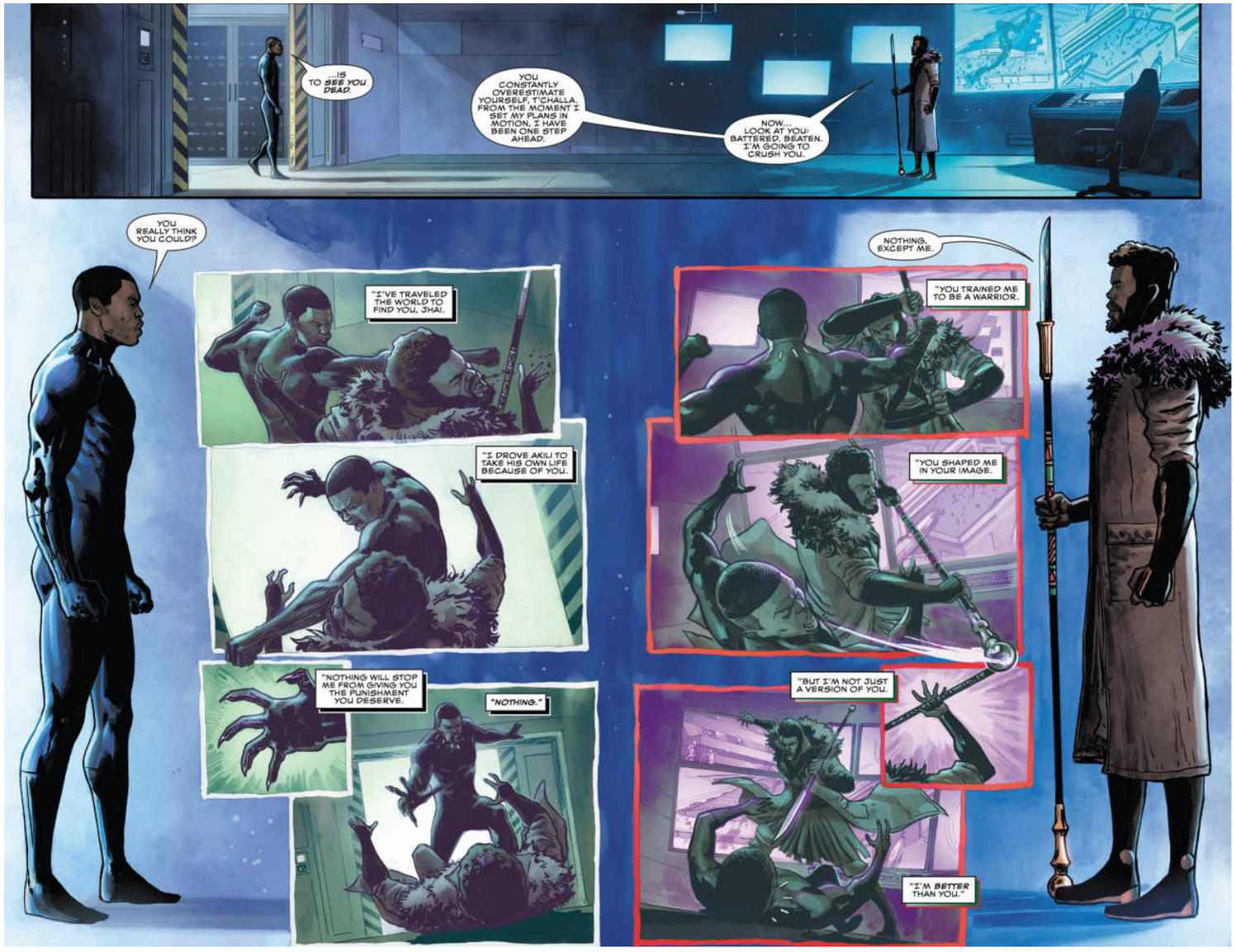
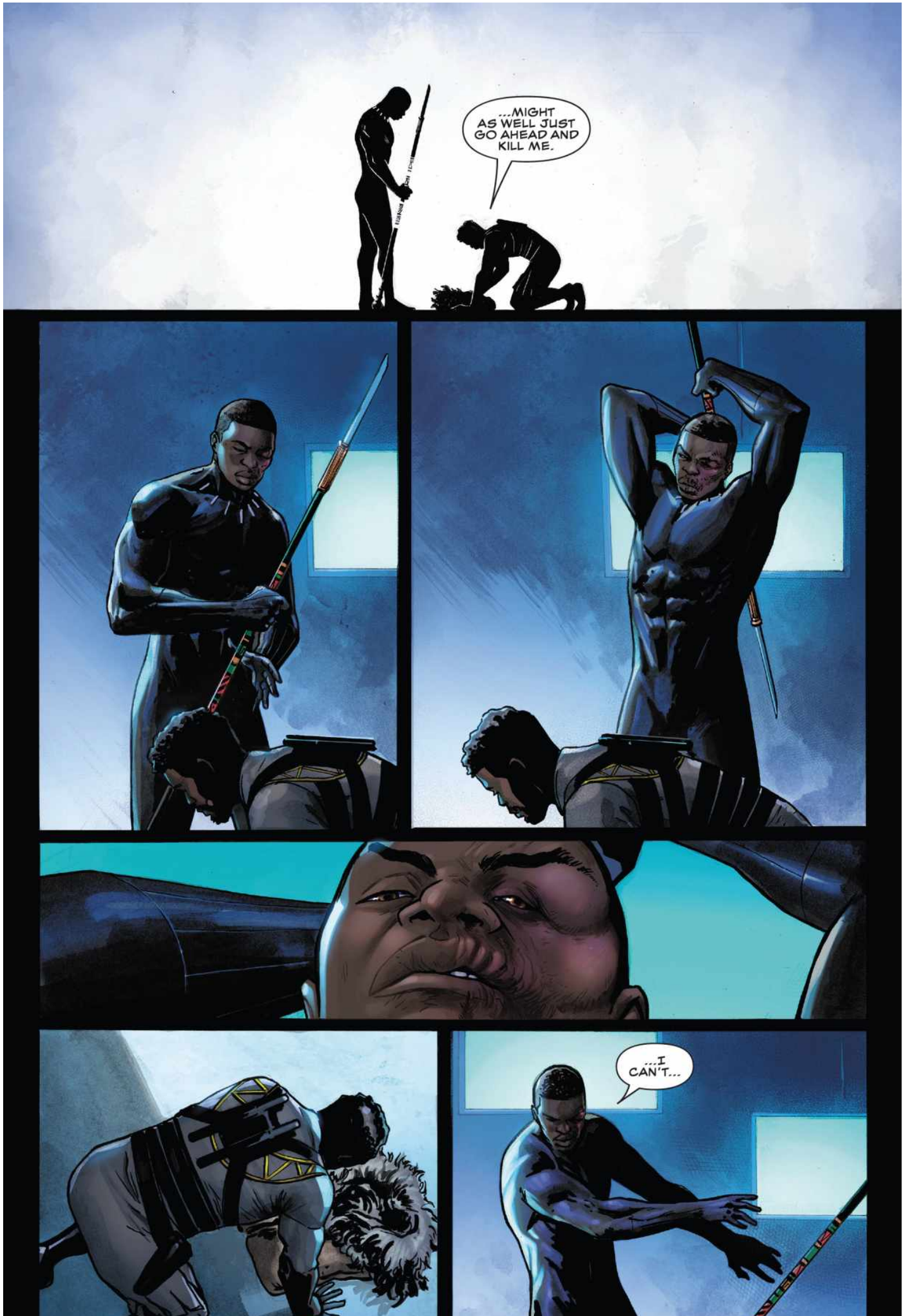
"DID YOU THINK YOU COULD STOP ME?
"YOU BUILT AN ARMY TO FIGHT FOR YOU. BUT IT COULD NOT DETER ME."
YOU TWISTED MY LIFE. BUT YOU COULDN'T BREAK ME.
YOU HAVE AN AGENDA, BUT I HAVE PURPOSE.
MY PURPOSE...

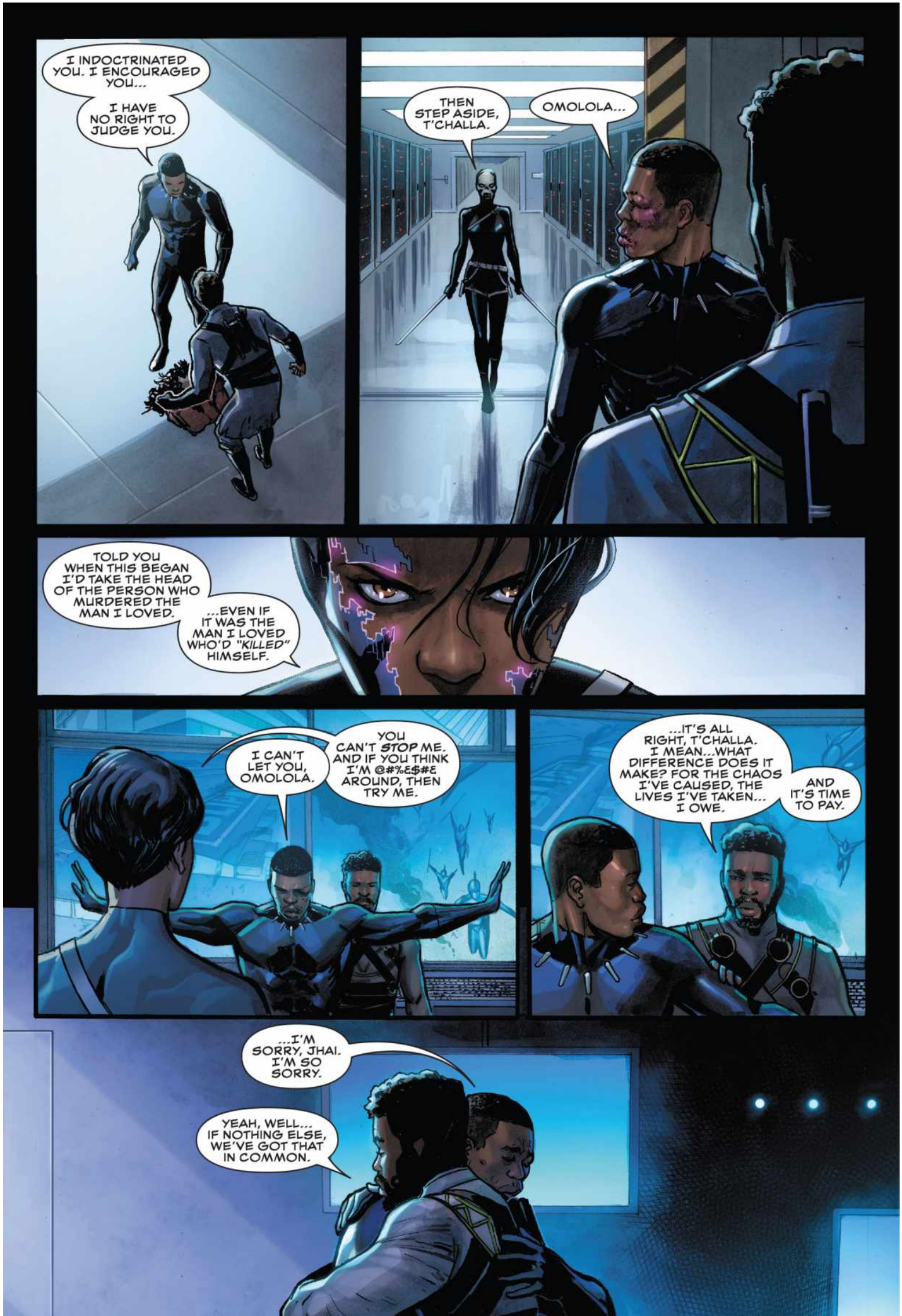

...IS TO SEE YOU DEAD.
YOU CONSTANTLY OVERESTIMATE YOURSELF, T'CHALLA. FROM THE MOMENT I SET MY PLANS IN MOTION, I HAVE BEEN ONE STEP AHEAD.
NOW... LOOK AT YOU: BATTERED. BEATEN. I'M GOING TO CRUSH YOU.
YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD?
"I'VE TRAVELED THE WORLD TO FIND YOU, JHAI.
"I DROVE AKILI TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE BECAUSE OF YOU.
"NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM GIVING YOU THE PUNISHMENT YOU DESERVE.
"NOTHING."
NOTHING, EXCEPT ME.
"YOU TRAINED ME TO BE A WARRIOR.
"YOU SHAPED ME IN YOUR IMAGE.
"BUT I'M NOT JUST A VERSION OF YOU.
"I'M BETTER THAN YOU."

YOU KNOW I CAN'T BE KEPT DOWN, JHAI.
"ALWAYS I RISE.
"ALWAYS I FIGHT.
"ALWAYS I AM VICTORIOUS.
"THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY THIS STORY ENDS--"

--WITH ME STANDING OVER YOUR DEAD BODY. IT'S INEVITABLE, AND YOU KNOW IT.
WHAT I KNOW...IS THAT I HAVE ONE LAST MANEUVER.
ONE LAST WEAPON AT MY DISPOSAL...
...THE TRUTH.
I KNOW WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO YOU, T'CHALLA. NOT JUST EXILED YOU FROM WAKANDA, BUT THEY HAVE ELEVATED NAMOR IN YOUR STEAD.
THOSE WHO PRESIDE OVER WAKANDA ARE FOOLS. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE NAMOR STRANGLES THEM WITH THEIR OWN NAIVETE--AND OUR MOTHERLAND ALONG WITH THEM.
YOU RULED WITH A STEADY WILL AND A CARING HEART. WHATEVER MISTAKES YOU MADE, THEY WERE FOR THE GOOD OF WAKANDA.
BUT THE ONE MISTAKE FROM WHICH WAKANDA WILL NEVER RECOVER IS *NOT* HAVING YOU AS OUR KING.
THAT IS THE TRUTH, T'CHALLA.
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR NATION, I PLEDGE MYSELF TO RESTORING YOU TO YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE ON THE THRONE OF WAKANDA.

...SO MANY TIMES I'VE FOUGHT FOR THE THRONE. LOST IT. RETAKEN IT, ONLY TO LOSE IT AGAIN. ON AND ON.
THIS TIME IT WILL BE DIFFERENT. YOU, ME, MY WARRIORS, THE INTERGALACTIC EMPIRE, KILLSWITCH...
ALL OF THAT: THE FRUIT OF MY DECEPTIONS...
YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE LIKE NEVER BEFORE. FOR THEIR SAKE... USE IT.
I DO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO TAKE THE THRONE.
BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...
...I HAVE THE STRENGTH TO WALK AWAY. THE THRONE'S NOT MINE, JHAI. I CAN'T CLAIM IT. I DON'T DESERVE IT.
AND I WILL BE KING NO MORE, FOREVER.
ALL THAT I'VE FOUGHT FOR...AND IN ONE INSTANT YOU SHOW ME I FOUGHT FOR NOTHING.


...MIGHT AS WELL JUST GO AHEAD AND KILL ME.
...I CAN'T...

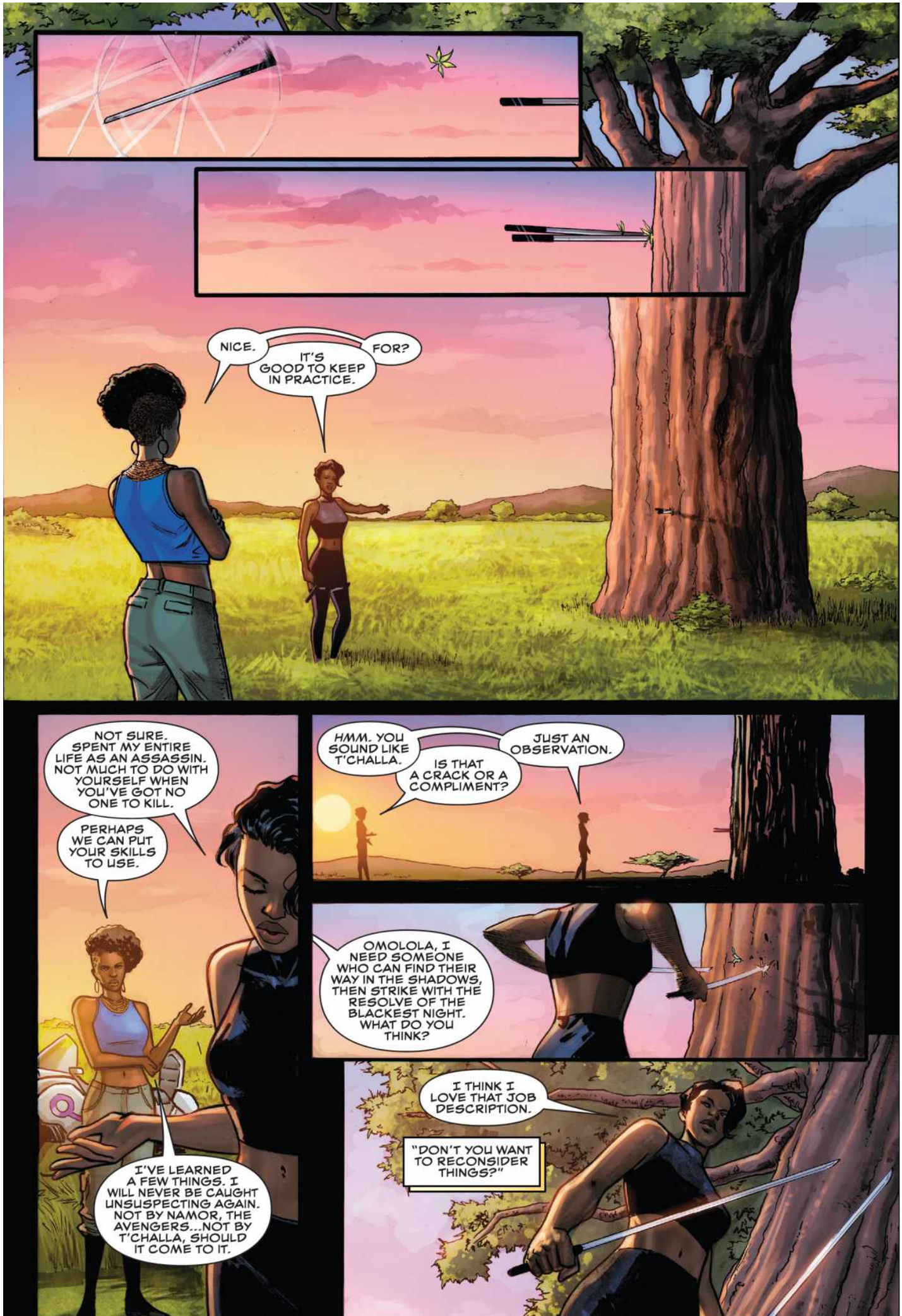

I INDOCTRINATED YOU. I ENCOURAGED YOU...
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE YOU.
THEN STEP ASIDE, T'CHALLA.
OMOLOLA...
TOLD YOU WHEN THIS BEGAN I'D TAKE THE HEAD OF THE PERSON WHO MURDERED THE MAN I LOVED.
...EVEN IF IT WAS THE MAN I LOVED WHO'D "KILLED" HIMSELF.
I CAN'T LET YOU, OMOLOLA.
YOU CAN'T STOP ME. AND IF YOU THINK I'M @#%£$#£ AROUND, THEN TRY ME.
...IT'S ALL RIGHT, T'CHALLA. I MEAN...WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? FOR THE CHAOS I'VE CAUSED, THE LIVES I'VE TAKEN... I OWE.
AND IT'S TIME TO PAY.
...I'M SORRY, JHAI. I'M SO SORRY.
YEAH, WELL... IF NOTHING ELSE, WE'VE GOT THAT IN COMMON.

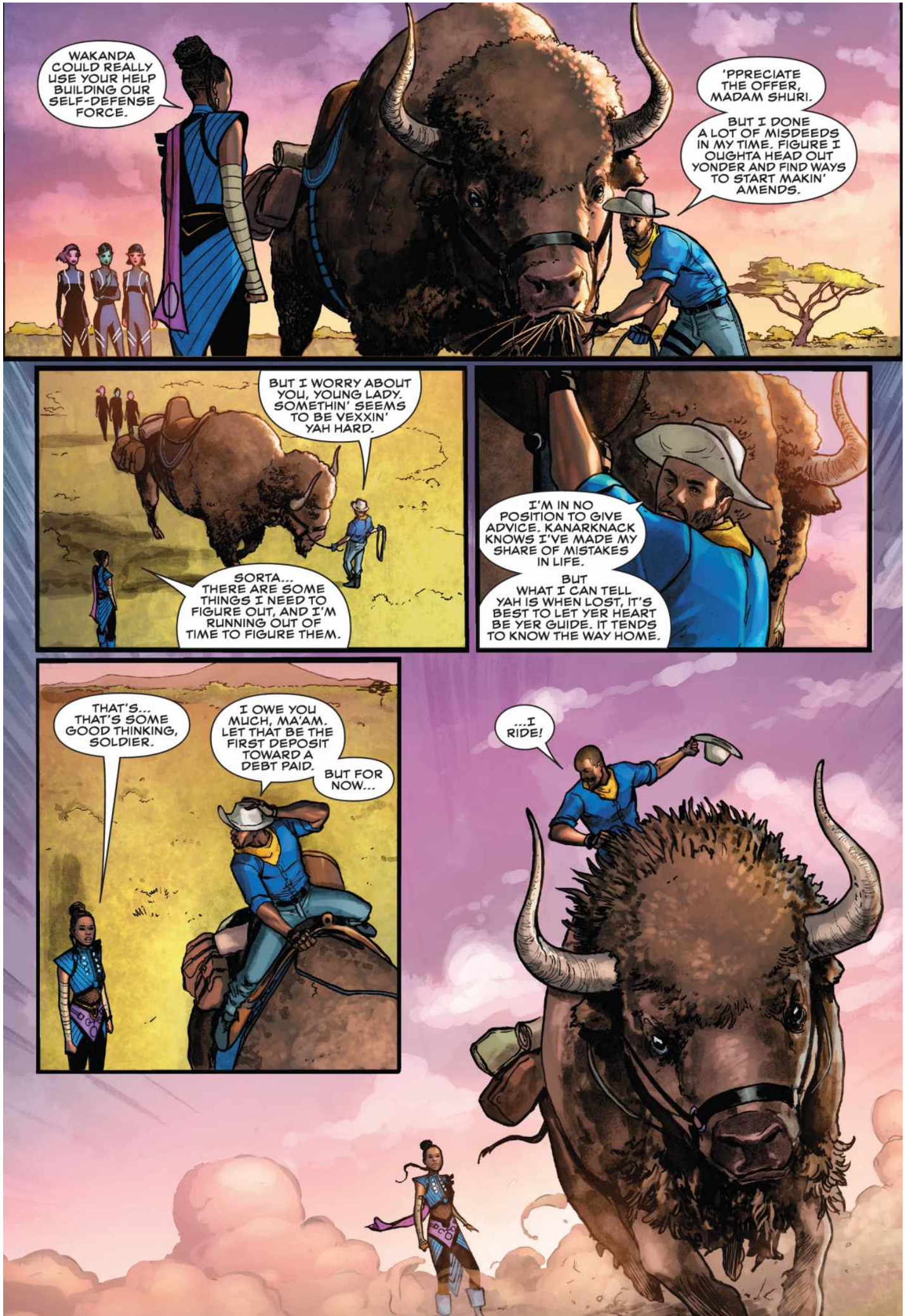
OMOLOLA--
GO!
CAN I JUST...? I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I ALWAYS LOVED YOU.
I JUST LOVED T'CHALLA A LITTLE BIT MORE.
YEAH. I KNOW. NOTHING MESSES PEOPLE UP WORSE THAN LOVE.
DO ME A FAVOR AND MAKE IT--
THAT QUICK ENOUGH FOR YOU?

LOOK.
I DO NOT NEE--
YOU AND YOUR LIES DID THIS, T'CHALLA. LOOK!
...JHAI...
CONGRATS. YOU SAVED THE WORLD. AND ALL IT COST WAS THE LIFE OF YOUR BEST FRIEND.
SOME KING. COULDN'T EVEN BRING HIMSELF TO KILL HIS ENEMY. SAD.
NAMOR, SINCE WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE AVENGERS, I'LL THANK YOU IN ADVANCE TO PLEASE SHUT IT.
"LET ME SPEAK ON THE STATE OF OUR NATION."

THE STATE OF WAKANDA--THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF WAKANDA--IS *STRONG.*
WE HAVE PREVAILED AGAINST TYRANNY, WE HAVE MADE FRIENDS OF FORMER ENEMIES. WE HAVE STEPPED OUT FROM UNDER THE LONG SHADOW OF *"ONE MAN, ONE RULE."*
AS OUR FORMER KING BEGINS HIS EXILE, WE MUST *NEVER* LOOK BACK.
IT IS WITH AN EYE TOWARD THE FUTURE THAT I NOMINATE TO THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF STATE *IMANI KOLAWOLE.*
THEY HAVE SERVED THIS NATION WELL DURING THIS CRISIS, AND THEY HAVE MY FULL FAITH AND TRUST.
THANK YOU, MA'AM. I WILL NOT FAIL WAKANDA.
THOUGH WAKANDA WILL ALWAYS ADVOCATE FOR PEACE, LET NO ONE DOUBT WE WILL FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. TODAY WE BEGIN THE TASK OF BUILDING A NEW WAKANDAN *SELF-DEFENSE FORCE.*
A FORCE THAT WILL BE TRAINED AND LED BY THE *DORA MILAJE,* WITH *OKOYE, AYO* AND *ANEKA* AT THE FORE.
AND FINALLY, I CALL ON YOU: THE PEOPLE OF WAKANDA--THIS IS NOW *YOUR* NATION.

"JOIN ME IN THE FIGHT FOR OUR WAKANDA."
THE "MUTE ZONE" VILLAGE OF ZIERRA. HOME OF THE MARUBE TRIBE.
YOU'RE GOING, TOSIN? TO BIRNIN ZANA, TO THE OTHER WAKANDA...? THAT'S EVERYTHING OUR TRIBE TURNED THEIR BACKS ON.
EVERYTHING OUR TRIBE TURNED THEIR BACKS ON IS DONE ONCE T'CHALLA STARTS HIS EXILE. AND KIME...OUR TRIBE, FOR REAL...THEY CAN BE JUDGMENTAL.
YOU KNOW THAT, BECAUSE YOU AND THE SISTERHOOD HAVE FELT IT.*
*SEE WAKANDA #4. --WIL
...YEAH, WE HAVE.
THE TIME FOR BLAMING EVERYTHING ON T'CHALLA'S OVER. IF WE WANT BETTER, THEN WE'VE GOTTA BE BETTER.
BESIDES, KIME, I'M JUST GOING TO BIRNIN ZANA.
WHEN YOU NEED ME, YOU'LL ALWAYS KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
YEAH, BUT MORE LIKE: I'LL KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU...
...WHEN YOU NEED ME.
ZINGUBO


NICE.
IT'S GOOD TO KEEP IN PRACTICE.
FOR?
NOT SURE. SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE AS AN ASSASSIN. NOT MUCH TO DO WITH YOURSELF WHEN YOU'VE GOT NO ONE TO KILL.
PERHAPS WE CAN PUT YOUR SKILLS TO USE.
I'VE LEARNED A FEW THINGS. I WILL NEVER BE CAUGHT UNSUSPECTING AGAIN. NOT BY NAMOR, THE AVENGERS...NOT BY T'CHALLA, SHOULD IT COME TO IT.
HMM. YOU SOUND LIKE T'CHALLA.
IS THAT A CRACK OR A COMPLIMENT?
JUST AN OBSERVATION.
OMOLOLA, I NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN FIND THEIR WAY IN THE SHADOWS, THEN STRIKE WITH THE RESOLVE OF THE BLACKEST NIGHT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK I LOVE THAT JOB DESCRIPTION.
"DON'T YOU WANT TO RECONSIDER THINGS?"


WAKANDA COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP BUILDING OUR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE.
'PPRECIATE THE OFFER, MADAM SHURI.
BUT I DONE A LOT OF MISDEEDS IN MY TIME. FIGURE I OUGHTA HEAD OUT YONDER AND FIND WAYS TO START MAKIN' AMENDS.
BUT I WORRY ABOUT YOU, YOUNG LADY. SOMETHIN' SEEMS TO BE VEXXIN' YAH HARD.
SORTA... THERE ARE SOME THINGS I NEED TO FIGURE OUT, AND I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO FIGURE THEM.
I'M IN NO POSITION TO GIVE ADVICE. KANARKNACK KNOWS I'VE MADE MY SHARE OF MISTAKES IN LIFE.
BUT WHAT I CAN TELL YAH IS WHEN LOST, IT'S BEST TO LET YER HEART BE YER GUIDE. IT TENDS TO KNOW THE WAY HOME.
THAT'S... THAT'S SOME GOOD THINKING, SOLDIER.
I OWE YOU MUCH, MA'AM. LET THAT BE THE FIRST DEPOSIT TOWARD A DEBT PAID.
BUT FOR NOW...
...I RIDE!

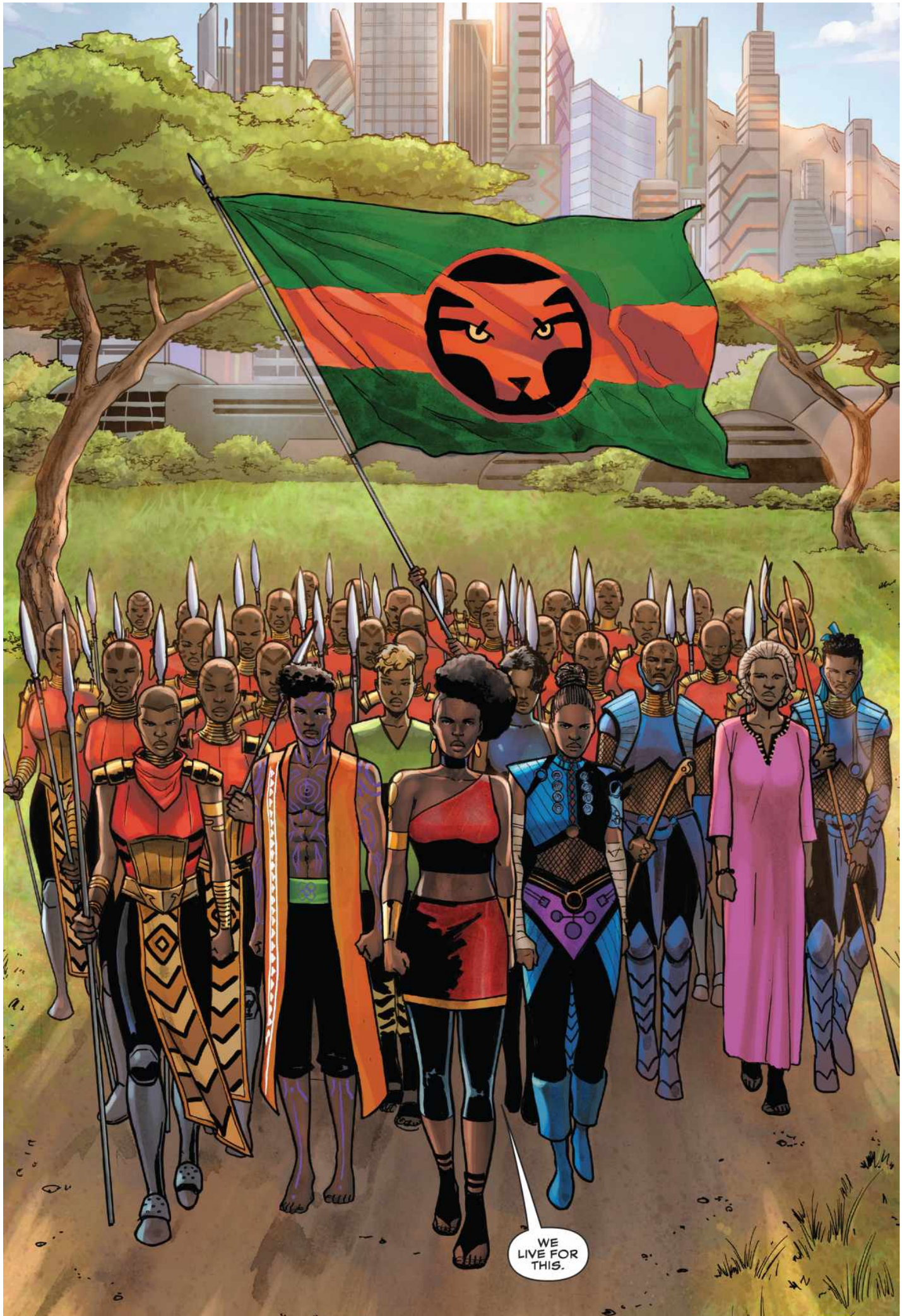
*"NOTHING MORE POIGNANT THAN A MAN AND HIS BUFFALO RIDING OFF IN THE SUNSET."
**"IF I HAD THE CAPACITY FOR EMPATHY, I WOULD CRY."
REALLY, REALLY WISH I KNEW WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE SAYING, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK.
WHOA, WAIT... YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?
WE SPEAK 113 LANGUAGES. SIX THAT HAVEN'T BEEN INVENTED YET.
IF YOU HAVE A SECOND, I COULD USE SOME ADVICE. IT HAS TO DO WITH MY BROTHER.
WOW. WISH YOU'D ASKED US HALF AN HOUR AGO. WOULD HAVE LOVED TO HAVE DONE SOME "SISTER TO SISTER" BONDING, BUT WE SERIOUSLY GOTTA ROLL.
SORRY, SHURI. IF YOU NEED US, JUST CALL.
BUT IF YOU DO CALL, MAKE SURE IT'S AS A LAST RESORT.
AN "ABSOLUTE, NO OTHER WAY AROUND IT" LAST RESORT. 'CAUSE THINGS WILL GET MESSY.
HOW CAN I FIND YOU?
#AWESOMEDEATHBRIGADE!
BUT REMEMBER, YOUR MOST DESPERATE, "WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE" LAST RESORT.
LOVE YAH, BYE!
...WEIRD...
JUST SLIGHTLY, REALLY WEIRD.
"WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME."

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE COMING TO SEE ME OFF.
NOT SO MUCH TO SEE YOU OFF AS TO SEE YOU *GONE*, NAMOR.
WHY THE ANGER? YOU SHOULD BE JOYFUL.
ATLANTIS AND WAKANDA COEXISTING PEACEFULLY FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY. ALL MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR EXILE. WELL...SUCH IS THE PRICE OF PEACE.
YOU'RE FOOLING NO ONE. YOU CARE AS LITTLE FOR *PEACE* AS YOU DO FOR *HUMANKIND*. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL YOU DISPLAY YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS.
AND WHEN YOU DO...
AND WOULDN'T THAT SUIT YOU--WERE THIS ALL JUST A SCHEME, YOUR PEOPLE WOULD BEG FOR THE BLACK PANTHER TO RETURN AND RESTORE YOU TO THE THRONE.
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME TO ENSURE THERE *IS* PEACE...
...SO YOU WILL NOT SET FOOT IN THE LAND OF YOUR FOREFATHERS *EVER AGAIN*.
TAKE THAT WITH YOU AS YOU GO: NAMOR IS

DEFEATED AT EVERY TURN...I SUPPOSE IT'S APPROPRIATE. THE BEST WAY TO MOVE FORWARD IS WITH NOTHING HOLDING YOU BACK.
SHURI--
T'CHALLA... THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SAY IT EXCEPT TO SAY IT. WE TALKED ABOUT ME GOING WITH YOU, BUT...
BUT YOU'RE STAYING HERE IN WAKANDA.
WAIT...YOU KNOW?
I MAY NO LONGER BE KING, BUT I'M STILL BLACK PANTHER.
SHURI, THERE'S A WHOLE NEW WAKANDA THAT NEEDS TO BE BUILT. TRIBES WHOM WE'VE IGNORED WHO DESERVE OUR ATTENTION--
--AND I KNOW FOLASADE HAS ASKED YOU TO HEAD UP THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE. WITH ALL THAT...
...AS MUCH AS I NEED YOU, WAKANDA AND OUR MOTHER NEED YOU MORE. SO...DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.
JUST KNOW THAT WHEREVER I AM...
...MY LOVE STAYS WITH YOU BOTH.

WELL... NOTHING LEFT EXCEPT GOOD-BYE.
KNEEL TO THE KING!

MOTHER...?
I'VE WATCHED MY SON LEAVE ME A THOUSAND TIMES, BUT IT'S NEVER FELT SO...
...SO PERMANENT.
DON'T LOSE HEART, MA'AM. EVERYTHING T'CHALLA'S DONE, THE GOOD, THE BAD...IT'S BROUGHT US ALL TO THIS MOMENT. WE OWE IT TO HIM TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
AND THAT IS A PROMISE UPON WHICH WE WILL DELIVER.
WELL, THAT ALL SOUNDS REAL GOOD, BUT QUESTION IS...
...NOW WHAT?
HA!
MA'AM...?
ODD... OR MAYBE IT'S IRONIC. HE'S NOT GONE ONLY A MOMENT, AND I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF T'CHALLA'S WORDS.
NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE FACE, NO MATTER THE CHALLENGES, WHEN WE GO FORTH, WE WILL DO SO STRONG IN OURSELVES. NO HESITATING. NO HOLDING BACK.
WHY SAVE ANYTHING FOR


WE LIVE FOR THIS.

Fifteen months.

Over the last fifteen months, we got some work done in the pages of BLACK PANTHER. Built a conspiracy. Traveled the globe. Brought back old friends. Wrote in some young bloods. Complicated relationships. Dropped Omolola, Jhai, Folasade, Imani, the Buffalo Soldier and Tosin.

And closed out heavy on the idea that no matter all else that changes, Wakanda is forever.

Like I said, *we* did work. And we *all* deserve acknowledgement.

So thanks to Juann Cabal, Ibrahim Moustafa, Stefano Landini, Germán Peralta, Federico Blee, Matt Milla, Jesus Aburtov, Ceci de la Cruz, Sebastian Cheng, Juni Ba, Chris O'Halloran, Joe Sabino, Jay Bowen, Kat Gregorowicz, Kaitlyn Lindtvedt, Michelle Marchese, Alanna Smith, Wil Moss and C.B. Cebulski.

And thanks very especially to Alex Ross. I don't know that one can describe what it's like to have your words express-shipped to you from the distributor -- once a month for more than a year -- gift-wrapped in fifteen instant classic covers.

To all: Thank you.

John Ridley

AND IN JUNE, PICK UP

BLACK PANTHER #1

BY EVE L. EWING
AND CHRIS ALLEN!

NOW THAT HE HAS BEEN EXILED FROM WAKANDA, WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR T'CHALLA?

BANISHED FROM THE THRONE AND A FUGITIVE IN HIS OWN HOMELANDS, JOIN THE BLACK PANTHER AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE...

WELCOME TO BIRNIN T'CHAKA.

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ZONE